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(3) The authorized officer may request additional data after the plan of operations has been determined to be complete. This request for additional information shall have no effect on the suspension of the running of the oil and gas lease.

[47 FR 22478, May 24, 1982, as amended at 55 FR 12351, Apr. 3, 1990]

§3140.3 Time limitations.

§3140.3-1 Conversion applications.

A plan of operations to convert an existing oil and gas lease or valid claim based on a mineral location to a combined hydrocarbon lease shall be filed on or before November 15, 1983, or prior to the expiration of the oil and gas lease, whichever is earlier, except as provided in §3140.1–2 of this title.

§3140.3-2 Action on an application.

The authorized officer shall take action on an application for conversion within 15 months of receipt of a proposed plan of operations.

 $[47~\mathrm{FR}~22478,~\mathrm{May}~24,~1982,~\mathrm{as}~\mathrm{amended}~\mathrm{at}~55~\mathrm{FR}~12351,~\mathrm{Apr.}~3,~1990]$

§3140.4 Conversion.

§ 3140.4-1 Approval of plan of operations (and unit and operating agreements).

(a) The owner of an oil and gas lease, or the owner of a valid claim based on a mineral location shall have such lease or claim converted to a combined hydrocarbon lease when the plan of operations, filed under §3140.2 of this title, is deemed acceptable and is approved by the authorized officer.

(b) The conversion of a lease within a unit of the National Park System shall be approved only with the consent of the Regional Director of the National Park Service in accordance with §3140.7 of this title.

(c) A plan of operations may not be approved in part but may be approved where it contains an appropriately staged plan of exploration and development operations.

 $[47\ FR\ 22478,\ May\ 24,\ 1982,\ as\ amended\ at\ 55\ FR\ 12351,\ Apr.\ 3,\ 1990]$

§ 3140.4-2 Issuance of the combined hydrocarbon lease.

- (a) After a plan of operations is found acceptable, and is approved, the authorized officer shall prepare and submit to the owner, for execution, a combined hydrocarbon lease containing all appropriate terms and conditions, including any necessary stipulations that were part of the oil and gas lease being converted, as well as any additional stipulations, such as those required to ensure compliance with the plan of operations
- (b) The authorized officer shall not sign the combined hydrocarbon lease until it has been executed by the conversion applicant and the lease or claim to be converted has been formally relinquished to the United States.
- (c) The effective date of the combined hydrocarbon lease shall be the first day of the month following the date that the authorized officer signs the lease.
- (d)(1) Except to the extent that any such lease would exceed 5,210 acres, the authorized officer may issue, upon the request of the applicant, 1 combined hydrocarbon lease to cover contiguous oil and gas leases or valid claims based on mineral locations which have been approved for conversion.
- (2) To the extent necessary to promote the development of the resource, the authorized officer may issue, upon the request of the applicant, one combined hydrocarbon lease that does not exceed 5,760 acres, which shall be as nearly compact as possible, to cover non-contiguous oil and gas leases or valid claims which have been approved for conversion.

 $[47\ FR\ 22478,\ May\ 24,\ 1982,\ as\ amended\ at\ 70\ FR\ 58614,\ Oct.\ 7,\ 2005]$

§ 3140.5 Duration of the lease.

A combined hydrocarbon lease shall be for a primary term of 10 years and for so long thereafter as oil or gas is produced in paying quantities.

§ 3140.6 Use of additional lands.

(a) The authorized officer may noncompetitively lease additional lands for ancillary facilities in a Special Tar Sand Area that are needed to support